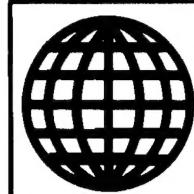


8 March 1993

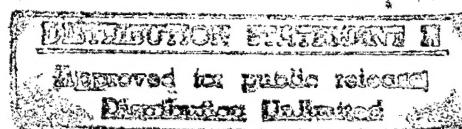


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REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Epidemiological Reports 11-17 January

MB1701184393 *Various Sources in Portuguese and English* 11-17 Jan 93

[Editorial Report] Following is a compilation of reports monitored by FBIS Mbabane Bureau from 11 to 17 January concerning outbreaks of and reports on various diseases. Items are listed by country and disease. Source follows each item.

MOZAMBIQUE

Cholera in Caia District—"A total of 37 people died of cholera in Caia District in Sofala Province from 5 December to early January [words indistinct] report from the Medicins Sans Frontiers Organization. According to the source, one person died every day during [words indistinct]." (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 11 Jan 93)

Cholera in Manica—More than 950 cholera cases have been reported in Manica since the outbreak of the disease in May 1992. Eighty-two people died of the disease. (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 13 Jan 93)

Cholera in Inhambane Province—More than 6,000 confirmed cases were registered between May and December of last year. The most affected districts were Zavala, Inharrime, Panda, Homoine, Morrumbene, and the city of Maxixe. (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 15 Jan 93)

Cholera in Tete Province—Between September 1992 and 6 January 1993 2,881 cholera cases were diagnosed; of that number 157 have already died. Local health authorities say the figures are preliminary as a number of districts have not yet sent reports. (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 17 Jan 93)

Malaria Cases Reported—"At least 4,000 cases of malaria were registered in Maputo over the past four weeks." A source from the Ministry of Health said recent "rains and stagnate water in [words indistinct] were the main causes for the increase in the disease." (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 11 Jan 93)

SOUTH AFRICA

Diarrhea—"The number of diarrhoea patients treated by Benedictine Hospital at kwaNongoma in northern Natal has increased drastically" over the past three months. A spokeswoman for the hospital said "about 40 new cases were being treated every day in the hospital." A "special ward had been set aside" and was open day and night. The outbreak of the disease is associated with contaminated and inadequate water sources in the area, "and more than 200 diarrhoea patients have already been treated" over the past three months. [Passage on AIDS omitted] (Johannesburg SAPA in English 2029 GMT 11 Jan 93)

ZAMBIA

Cholera Death Toll Rises—Zambian health officials say "three more people have died of cholera in the past 24 hours, bringing the death toll to 190 since the epidemic broke out in November last year. The officials said in the same 24-hour period, 96 new cholera cases have been reported, and 113 patients who have recovered from the disease have been discharged from hospitals throughout the country. More than 3,000 cases have been reported in Zambia since the outbreak." The Zambian Ministry of Health says that "all schools" in Lusaka "will remain closed until the 26th of this month because of the current cholera epidemic." (Gaborone Radio Botswana Network in English 1110 GMT 11 Jan 93)

ZIMBABWE

Cholera-Related Food Poisoning Cases—Medical authorities battling to control the country's worst cholera outbreak are "alarmed over widespread cases of food poisoning caused by people eating insecticide-treated seed maize rather than taking a chance with suspect vegetables." "We are getting on top of the cholera menace, and the chances are the disease can be totally wiped out, but what we need desperately now are drugs for food poisoning," the paper quoted a government health worker as saying. "In late 1992, the government distributed thousands of metric tons of maize seed, which is "routinely impregnated with poison to stop insects eating it," as part of an agricultural recovery operation after the worst drought in the country's history. (Johannesburg SAPA in English 1237 GMT 12 Jan 93)

Cholera—Zimbabwe's cholera death toll has risen to 120 out of 2,403 cases since the first reported incident on 26 November 1992, Zimbabwe news agency ZIANA reported on Tuesday, 12 January 1993. The epidemic is believed to be spreading from two refugee camps, namely Mazowe River Bridge, where 42 people have died, and Tongogara, where 1,035 cases have been reported with 14 deaths in the six weeks of the outbreak. Health Minister Dr. Timothy Stamps said the problem of sanitation breakdown had been compounded by a communication breakdown between the Ministry of Health and the refugee camps' agencies. Stamps said the districts affected by the epidemic were Chippinge, Chimanimani, Mutare, Mount Darwin, Rushinga, Centenary, Bindura, Chiredzi, and Bikita. Two cases had recently been reported in Murehwa. (Johannesburg SAPA in English 2033 GMT on 12 Jan 93)

Epidemiological Reports 18-24 January

MB2501102893 *Various Sources in English and Portuguese* 18-24 Jan 93

[Editorial Report] Following is a compilation of reports monitored by FBIS Mbabane Bureau from 18 to 24 January concerning outbreaks of and reports on various diseases. Items are listed by country and disease. Source follows each item.

LESOTHO

Typhoid Cases in Maseru District—"More than 40 cases of typhoid have been reported in the District of Maseru

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

between last September and January this year." The Maseru District health inspector said the epidemic is increasing at an alarming rate because of the drought situation in the country. (Maseru Radio Lesotho in English 0500 GMT 23 Jan 93)

MOZAMBIQUE

Cholera in Tete Province—At least 150 people died from cholera between September 1992 and the first week of January 1993. This was revealed to NOTICIAS by Doctor Maria Naira, a specialist in public health in Tete. According to the source, more than 2,000 cases of cholera were reported in the districts of Changara, Marara, and Cahora Bassa during the same period. The districts had previously been declared free of cholera. The health official stressed that the situation is even more worrisome in Chiuta District. (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 19 Jan 93)

Cholera Deaths at Provincial Hospital—Thirteen people died of cholera at the Tete Provincial Hospital over the past seven days. A total of 123 confirmed cases of cholera were recorded at the hospital during the same period. Dr. Maria Amelia, head of public health service in Tete Province, said the provincial hospital has been registering many cases of diarrhea. (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 20 Jan 93)

Cholera in Manica Province—Four people died from cholera between 1 and 18 January at Gondola health center. The Gondola District health officer says the health center recorded 30 cases of cholera during the same period. He added that in 1992 the district recorded 31 cholera cases, including five deaths. (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 21 Jan 93)

Cholera Deaths in Caia District—This month 29 people died of cholera in Murraca administrative post, Caia District, Sofala Province. It is estimated that more than 300 people have been affected by cholera in the area, requiring immediate assistance. (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 22 Jan 93)

SOUTH AFRICA

Malaria in Transvaal—The regional director of the Department of National Health and Population Development reports that "the present outbreak of malaria in the far-northern Transvaal and neighboring regions is 10 times worse than usual. Nevertheless, the outbreak is confined to the endemic malarial areas. Over the past three weeks some 200 cases had been reported in Venda, 100 in Gazankulu, 50 in Lebowa, and 50 in South Africa. (Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 1100 GMT 21 Jan 93)

ZIMBAWE

Cholera Update Nationwide—Health Minister Timothy Stamps reports that the death toll in Zimbabwe's first major cholera epidemic rose to 153 over the last week, with 33 deaths and 379 new cases. The disease had spread beyond the eastern border areas where it began in late November with a flood of refugees from Mozambique. It had been diagnosed in five new districts in the last seven days,

including Mvuma in the country's Midlands Province. Dr. Stamps reports that the "magnitude of the epidemic certainly exceeded predictions, including my own. It's the biggest and most explosive." Lack of financing would result in health staff being "more thinly spread" but there were still "substantial" stocks of antibiotics. Dr. Stamps noted that the fatality rate of 5 percent was much lower than Zambia where 800 deaths have been reported since November. Tourists were advised that resorts were free of the disease, as is Harare. (Johannesburg SAPA in English 1622 GMT 19 Jan 93)

MOZAMBIQUE

Authorities Seek International Assistance To Fight Cholera

MB2201162293 Johannesburg Channel Africa Radio in English 1100 GMT 22 Jan 93

[From the "Channel Africa Report" program]

[Text] More than 150 people have died of cholera in Mozambique's north-western Tete Province since September last year. The disease is said to be spreading in the province where more than 3,000 cases of cholera have now been reported. Tete borders on Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, and the authorities have appealed for international assistance to fight the epidemic. Trevor Farahani reports:

Farahani: Thousands of people who had fled the province because of war into neighboring countries have now already returned. Officials say that the current figures are provisional ones because other affected districts of the province have not yet reported to the provincial health authorities. Maria Maiya, an expert on public health, says that her institution is very much worried because of the situation of cholera in Tete Province is worsening and there are no signs of improvement. A campaign to raise funds to combat cholera in the province is under way. International nongovernmental organizations that are working there have been asked to help local authorities in Tete to minimize the situation. They have been also asked to provide [word indistinct] and transport facilities to assist the needy population in the countryside. Some organizations such as Doctors Without Frontiers from Belgium and World Vision International from the United States have so far responded positively.

SOUTH AFRICA

Health Official Fears Spread of Zambia's Cholera to RSA

MB1501095693 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2112 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Pretoria Jan 14 SAPA—A South African health official said on Thursday he feared a spread of Zambia's cholera epidemic to this country, SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] radio news reports.

The chief director of primary health care, Dr. Leon du Toit, has just returned from a fact-finding mission to Zambia.

South Africa would, if necessary, advise Zambia on how to fight the epidemic, but could not offer financial aid.

He said the epidemic could spread to South Africa if personal hygiene was neglected by those crossing the countries' shared border.

Dr. du Toit said the Zambian officials had admitted that the main cause of the cholera epidemic was the poor condition of the country's sewage and water supply systems.

SWAZILAND

Over 700 People Treated for Diarrhea at Weekend *MB1101190493 Mbabane Radio Swaziland Network in English 1600 GMT 11 Jan 93*

[Text] More than 700 people, some critical, were admitted in hospitals along the Manzini-Mbabane corridor following an outbreak of diarrhea at Lobamba at the weekend. The victims had converged at Lobamba for the second Incwala [National First Fruits] ceremony from all over the country. So serious was the outbreak that the Ministry of Health had to recall all nurses on leave to reinforce at the Lobamba Clinic, Mbabane Government, and the Raleigh Fitkin Memorial hospitals yesterday.

In an interview this afternoon the principal secretary for health, Mr. Chris Mkhonta, said at Lobamba Clinic alone 496 were treated. A total of 180 people were treated at the Mbabane Government Hospital, and the rest were treated at the Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Hospital in Manzini. He said it was difficult to say what the source of the diarrhea was since his ministry's inspectorate team was still making tests.

He noted that the diarrhea cloudburst [as heard] has, however, been put under control and several people have already been discharged, and only a few, if any, victims came for medication today. On the availability of medication, Mr. Mkhonta said his ministry was lucky that a new consignment of oral rehydration arrived in the country a few weeks ago, with plenty of tetracycline capsules. Mr. Mkhonta and the director of medical services visited the victims in Mbabane and Lobamba this morning.

In another development the minister for health, Dr. Fannie Friedman, paid tribute to all medical officers, drivers, and individuals who contributed toward the success of the diarrhea rescue exercise at the weekend. She paid special tribute to those medical practitioners

who responded promptly when they were recalled from their deserved holidays to reinforce.

ZAMBIA

Red Cross Society of China Gives Money To Fight Cholera

*OW0801184493 Beijing XINHUA in English
1719 GMT 8 Jan 93*

[Article by Qiu Xiaoyi]

[Text] Lusaka, January 8 (XINHUA)—The Red Cross Society of China today donated 10,000 U.S. dollars to the Red Cross Society of Zambia to help it combat cholera in capital Lusaka.

Charge d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy Xu Cinong, on behalf of the Chinese Red Cross Society, presented a cheque of 10,000 dollars to Zambian Health Minister Boniface Kawimbe at a brief ceremony held here today.

Receiving the donation on behalf of the Zambian Red Cross Society, the minister described China as an all-weather friend, adding the money will go a long way in the fight against the cholera, which has claimed some 170 lives in Lusaka since it broke out in November last year.

ZIMBABWE

Government Appeal for Aid To Deal With Cholera Outbreak

*MB1101160593 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1532 GMT 11 Jan 93*

[Text] Harare Jan 11 SAPA—Zimbabwe has requested seven million Zimbabwe dollars [ZD] from the international donor community to deal with a cholera outbreak which has so far claimed 105 lives, ZIANA national news agency reported on Monday [11 January]. The acting World Health Organisation representative to Zimbabwe, Dr. Nicholas Chitimba, said in an interview the WHO supported Zimbabwe's request and had already agreed to provide the country with emergency materials worth ZD150,000.

"We are helping Zimbabwe obtain material support from the donor community. An overall request of ZD seven million has been made. It is a figure that WHO is supporting.

"We have agreed to provide Zimbabwe with USD 30,000 (ZD 150,000) worth of supplies as the first installation," said Mr. Chitimba.

CAMBODIA

Spread of Malaria, Tuberculosis Cases

*BK1801091293 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0407 GMT
18 Jan 93*

[Text] Phnom Penh 18 Jan (SPK)—The health service of Sre Ambel District in Koh Kong Province, west of Phnom Penh, is currently busy fighting malaria which is spreading in this hilly area.

The majority of the population in this locality have been affected by this disease; 70 fatalities have been recorded. Furthermore, according to the health service, 30 percent of the youths in the district seat have been affected by venereal diseases. The lack of medicine is one of the concerns of the local authority in the treatment and prevention of these diseases.

Some 4,000 persons suspected of being affected by tuberculosis have been recorded in 1992 in Kompong Speu Province, some 100 km west of Phnom Penh. The local health service, in close collaboration with the Health Ministry, has had nine anti-tuberculosis medical centers built in the province.

SOUTH KOREA

Government Confirms 12 Victims of Agent Orange

*SK1601022293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0126 GMT
16 Jan 93*

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 16 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Patriots and Veterans Affairs Agency ruled Friday that 12 Korean veterans of the Vietnam war are victims of Agent Orange, a defoliant widely used by the U.S. Forces during the war.

The agency had carried out thorough medical examinations of 238 possible victims of Agent Orange identified by the Defense Ministry, but cleared the chemical in 226 cases.

This is the first time the government has officially confirmed anyone as suffering from exposure to Agent Orange.

Official recognition entitles the 12 to government compensation and regular medical checks.

New Virus of Epidemic Hemorrhagic Fever Discovered

*SK1201115993 Seoul YONHAP in English 1125 GMT
12 Jan 93*

[Text] Seoul, Jan 12 (YONHAP)—A new virus of epidemic hemorrhagic fever, that is stronger than the hitherto known viruses of the fever, has been discovered recently.

A team led by Prof. Yi Ho-wang of the Medical College of Korea University, said Tuesday it had discovered the fifth type of epidemic hemorrhagic fever virus from the blood of a Paju-kun man who died of the fever in ten days after his infection in October 1990.

Prof. Yi said that unlike the four already known types, the new virus is strong enough to kill one- to two-month-old mice in seven to ten days.

Yi said he named the virus as "Howang virus" after his name and his team is working on the invention of its preventive vaccine.

Prof. Yi discovered the virus of the epidemic hemorrhagic fever in 1976 for the first time in the world, which he named "Hantan virus" as the epidemic used to occur mostly in areas along the Hantan River near the Demilitarized Zone in Korea.

In 1980 he discovered another type virus of the hemorrhagic fever, "Seoul virus," and in 1990 succeeded in producing a preventive vaccine.

The hemorrhagic fever, whose viruses are carried by rats, is now one of the world's three major epidemic diseases, the two others being malaria and hepatitis.

The hemorrhagic fever is known to affect some 500,000 people around the world, claiming the lives of about 7 percent of them.

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Regional Health Report 7-16 January

PA1701014493 Various Sources in Spanish 7-16 Jan 93

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of regional health reports monitored by Panama Bureau from 7 to 16 January. Source follows in parentheses after each item.

COLOMBIA

Deputy Health Minister Wolfgang Munar said on 6 January there is no measles epidemic in northeastern Antioquia; adding that, in fact, the number of cases has decreased noticeably. (Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 7 Jan 93 p 8)

An epidemic of Hepatitis B, a mortal disease, has been reported at Caracoli Prison, Honda. Six inmates have the disease and 100 more might be infected due to the prison's crowded cells and the poor sanitary conditions in the bathrooms, yard, and sleeping quarters. (Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1700 GMT 10 Jan 93)

ECUADOR

A cholera outbreak was recently reported in Ecuador's coastal area, where between five and seven persons are admitted in different hospitals every day. Ecuadorian Health Ministry officials have only reported that 30,533 cases were registered in 1992. This represents a 12.7 percent reduction compared with 1991, when 34,967 cases were registered. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 1620 GMT 13 Jan 93)

NICARAGUA

Five cholera patients arrived on 11 January at the Oscar Robelo Rosales Hospital in Leon from Las Penitas. Six cases have already been confirmed in the area. Measures are being adopted to prevent an outbreak. (Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Jan 93)

PANAMA

The Health Ministry has reported seven malaria cases this year: three in Bocas del Toro Province, two in Darien Province, one in Chiriqui Province and one in the San Blas Islands. (Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 13 Jan 93 p 24)

Official figures show 726 malaria cases were registered in 1992. The highest figures were registered in Darien Province, 47 percent; Chiriqui Province, 22.3 percent; and Bocas del Toro Province, 11.7 percent. (Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 12 Jan 93 p 12)

Two new cholera deaths have occurred in the country: One died in Penas Blancas, Ancon, Panama Province; and one died in El Escobal, Colon Province. (Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 14 Jan 93 pp 1, 35)

The Health Ministry has reported nine cholera cases this year. Six were registered in Ailigandi, San Blas Islands, and three were registered in Colon, Colon Province. The information reports 3,067 cases have been registered since the

disease first appeared in 1991; adding 1,560 persons were hospitalized and 82 have died. (Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 14 Jan 93 p A2)

PERU

Peruvian Health Ministry sources reveal 6,017 cholera cases have been registered in the country between 25 December and 2 January; adding four of these have died. The largest numbers of cases were registered in Lima, 2,876 cases; El Callao, 976 cases; and Ayacucho 108 cases. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 2328 GMT 11 Jan 93)

Piura health authorities have confirmed two bubonic plague deaths and numerous cases in the village of Penas Blancas, Santo Domingo Morrocon District. Most of the patients have been admitted to the regional hospital in Castilla. (Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Jan 93)

VENEZUELA

Three new cholera deaths were recently reported in Venezuela. Seven patients have died this year, according to health authorities. The deaths occurred in Anzoategui Department and around the delta of the Orinoco River. (Paris AFP in Spanish 2107 GMT 14 Jan 93)

Regional Health Report 16-22 January

PA2301035593 Various Sources in Spanish 16-22 Jan 93

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of regional health reports monitored by Panama Bureau from 16 to 22 January. Source follows in parentheses after each item.

COSTA RICA

Health authorities have reported an outbreak of 178 hepatitis B, or serum hepatitis, cases in Santa Ana. Community leaders say the figure is likely to climb to 250. (San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 9 Jan 93 p 14a)

Local authorities have reported three hepatitis A, or infectious hepatitis, cases in Escazu. Health officials say the outbreak is caused by polluted water. (San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 14 Jan 93 p 5a)

NICARAGUA

Nine new cholera cases have been reported in rural areas of Leon. Special health brigades have been sent to the area. (Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 18 Jan 93)

Health authorities have reported that the new cholera death toll is 50 and the total number of people infected is 3150. (Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1739 GMT 19 Jan 93)

Four more people have died as the result of the cholera epidemic in the country. In the past 15 days 83 more people have been infected. (Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 19 Jan 93)

LATIN AMERICA

The Health Ministry has reported six new cholera cases in Colon and Rivas. (Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 20 Jan 93)

PANAMA

Health Minister Rolla Pimentel has reported that two more persons have died of cholera and that so far 42 people have been killed by the disease. Since 1991, 1267 people have been reported to be infected. (Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 19 Jan 93 p A1)

PERU

Health Minister Victor Paredes has reported that cholera claimed 19 lives in Peru during the first few weeks of 1993. Since 1991, when it appeared for the first time, the disease has killed 3482 people throughout the country. (Paris AFP in Spanish 1614 GMT 18 Jan 93)

Southern Cone Health Report 8-14 January

PY1401163793 Various Sources in Spanish 8-14 Jan 93

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on epidemics and diseases monitored by Paraguay Bureau from 8 to 14 January. Source, date, and time are given in parentheses after each item.

ARGENTINA

Cholera Cases in Jujuy—In Jujuy Province, 118 cases of cholera have been recorded so far. The La Quiaca River has been contaminated with the cholera virus, as well as the Villazon River, on the border with Bolivia. Seven confirmed cases of cholera have been reported at the local hospital in La Quiaca. (Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 11 Jan 93)

Fatal Cholera Case—A peasant died from cholera in Jujuy the Health Ministry reported. The report also says there are 35 new cholera cases in the country. The report adds that 682 people have been infected and 17 have died in the country since the cholera outbreak in February 1992. (Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2346 GMT 8 Jan 93)

More Cholera Cases Reported—Salta Province health officials reported the first death from cholera in Salta and 10 confirmed new cases. The Cordoba Province health minister reported that a 48-year-old Bolivian woman who arrived from Oruro, Bolivia, has died from cholera. (Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0123 GMT 11 Jan 93)

Health Minister's Cholera Report—The health and social action minister officially reported that 38 new cholera cases have been confirmed in the country in the past 24 hours, and the total number of cases now stands at 774, including 19 who have died since the first outbreak in February 1992. The report says the 38 new cases were registered as follows: Salta, 26 cases; Jujuy, 11; and Cordoba, one. (Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 12 Jan 93)

Cholera Prevention Agreement Signed—On 12 January, the health ministers of Argentina and Bolivia, Julio

Cesar Araoz and Moises Dabdoub, respectively, signed an agreement to reinforce cooperation mechanisms in the cholera prevention campaign. The agreement establishes the creation of regional border committees, a food control committee, reinforcement of potable water controls, and construction of more latrines in rural areas. (Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1004 GMT 13 Jan 93)

More Cholera Cases Reported—The health minister reported today that 22 new cholera cases were reported in the last few hours—three in Salta and 19 in Jujuy, which means that so far 807 people have caught the disease since its outbreak in February 1992; 19 have died. The minister said that of the 22 new cases, only two remain hospitalized. (Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1808 GMT 13 Jan 93)

BOLIVIA

Latest Figures on Cholera—The Health Ministry reported that between 22 to 28 December there were 210 new cholera cases in the country and that 13 have died. The ministry said that in Oruro there were 54 cases, of which six died. There were 99 cases and seven deaths in Potosi. There were six cases in El Alto and no deaths, and 23 cases in Tarija. (La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 30 Dec 92 p 6)

CHILE

Four Cholera Cases Reported—The Cholera Prevention Program chief confirmed four cases of cholera so far this season in Chile. Two of the cases were registered in Calama and two in Arica. (Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 12 Jan 93)

PERU

Cholera Outbreak in Lima—With the beginning of summer, about 10 cases of cholera are being registered daily in Lima. Pedro Ricra, chief of the fourth health subregion of Lima, which comprises the Unanue, Tello, and San Juan hospitals, reported that 977 cases of cholera were reported in these hospitals during 1992. He said the Unanue and San Juan hospitals reported 140 cholera patients in the last week. The anti-cholera campaign chief of Dos de Mayo Hospital says an average of 12 cholera patients are registering daily at the hospital, while the Collique Hospital in northern Lima is treating an average of eight cholera patients daily. (Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 2 Jan 93 p A15)

Cholera Hits Interior—The Chavin Region health director reported that 6,232 cases of cholera were registered in the region in 1992—56 percent registered in the coastal area, 25.8 percent in the Callejon de Huaylas area, and 17.91 percent in Conchucos. He also said more than 200 patients with cholera have been reported since 25 December 1992 in the region's several hospitals. In Jaen Region, the local hospital director reported his hospital is receiving an average of five cholera patients daily. (Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 2 Jan 93 p A15)

Southern Cone Health Reports 15-21 January

*PY2201204893 Various Sources in Spanish
15-21 Jan 93*

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on epidemics and diseases monitored by Paraguay Bureau from 15 to 21 January. Source, date, and time are given in parentheses after each item.

ARGENTINA

Salta Reports on Cholera—The Salta Province Health Ministry has reported that 18 new cases of cholera have been reported in the province “in the past few hours.” The total number of cases in the province now totals 617 cases. (Salta TELAM in Spanish 1620 GMT 16 Jan 93)

Jujuy Expels 36 Bolivians—Immigration authorities have reported that 36 Bolivian citizens who crossed the border on foot and who were illegally working in Jujuy Province have been expelled from the country. The move comes within the framework of extreme precautions by the province in view of the cholera outbreak in Bolivian border provinces. Authorities also reported 8 new cholera cases in Salta and 9 new cholera cases in Jujuy in the past 24 hours. (Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Jan 93 p 1)

Cholera Cases Nationwide—The Argentine Health Ministry reported on 20 January that 1,011 people have thus far been infected with the cholera virus and that the number of fatal cases totals 27. The cholera upsurge caused President Carlos Menem to hold a “social cabinet meeting” in Jujuy Province, one of the provinces hardest hit by the disease. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 1144 GMT 21 Jan 93)

BOLIVIA

Cholera Outbreak in Cochabamba—Following recent rains, 85 people have been infected with cholera. Three of the cases were fatal in the township of San Francisco, Sacaba Province, 35 km from Villa Tunari, in Cochabamba Department. (La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Jan 93)

Nationwide Cholera Figures Released—Epidemiology Director Roberto Vargas reported that 1,313 cases of cholera have been reported nationwide during the first two weeks of 1993. He said that 808 cases—including 13 fatal cases—were reported in Chuquisaca Department alone, namely in Tupiza, Tarija, and Potosi. (La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 15 Jan 93 p 6)

PARAGUAY

Malaria Cases Drop in 1992—The National Malaria Eradication Service, Senepa, has reported that 1,289 cases of malaria were reported nationwide in 1992; 56.8 percent less than in 1991 when 2,983 cases were reported. (Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 19 Jan p 8)

1992 Leishmaniasis Cases Update—Health Ministry officials have reported that 1,517 cases of leishmaniasis were reported nationwide in 1992. The following is a breakdown of cases by departments: Canindeyu, 754;

Alto Parana, 360; San Pedro, 236; Amambay, 49; Caaguazu, 38; Concepcion, 23; Cordillera 17; Caazapa, 14; Paraguarí, 6; Central, 5; Itapua, 4; Misiones 4; Guaira, 3; Asuncion, 3; and the Chaco Region, 1. (Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 21 Jan 93 p 4)

Southern Cone Health Report 29 Jan - 4 Feb

PY0502014493 Various Sources in Spanish 29 Jan-4 Feb 93

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on epidemics and diseases monitored by Paraguay Bureau from 29 January to 4 February. Source, date, and time are given in parentheses after each item.

ARGENTINA

Cholera Cases Reach 1274—Salta, 1 Feb (NA)—Health authorities have reported that the total number of cholera cases in the country has reached 1,274, and that 32 victims have died as a consequence of the disease. The number of cases this year climbed to 721, including 365 cases detected in Salta Province and 343 cases in Jujuy Province. (Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1632 GMT 1 Feb 93)

Cholera Cases in Jujuy—Jujuy Province health officials have stated that 15 more cases of cholera were reported today in Jujuy Province, thus bringing to 418 the total number of cholera victims in the province since 4 December. The 15 victims are Argentine rural workers, and are all out of danger. (Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 2 Feb 93)

Cholera Cases in Salta—Salta, 4 Feb (TELAM)—The Salta Province Health Ministry has reported 16 new cholera cases in the province over the past 24 hours. The number of cases in the province since February 1992 now totals 886. (Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1447 GMT 4 Feb 93)

BOLIVIA

Cholera Outbreak in Potosi—Potosi Department Authorities have been placed on full alert due to the cholera epidemic which is raging throughout that region. More than 50 cases were reported over the last few days, nine of which were fatal. Authorities have reported that their efforts to contain the epidemic are hindered because some physicians and paramedics are afraid of contracting cholera and therefore refuse to admit to the hospital patients who have symptoms of diarrhea. (La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 2 Feb 93)

La Paz Cholera Figures—Dr. Hugo Palacios, director of the La Paz Clinic Hospital, and infectologist Dr. Carmen Obando yesterday reported that 60 cases of cholera had been registered in their hospital over the past 3 months. The incidence of cholera increased somewhat during the summer, Dr. Obando said. (La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Feb 93)

Cholera Cases in Tarija—The Tarija Health Unit reported 873 cases of diarrhea in Tarija Department

from 27 December through 30 January. The report says that 172 of these cases had been confirmed as have been caused by the cholera virus, while 701 cases were probably also caused by cholera. There were 24 fatal cases in Tarija Department. (La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Feb 93)

CHILE

Seventh Cholera Case Registered—Santiago, 3 Feb (EFE)—The Health Ministry today confirmed the seventh cholera case in Chile thus far this year. The victim is a 39-year-old Bolivian citizen who entered Chile on 26 January. No deaths have been reported as a consequence of the disease so far. Last year 71 individuals contracted the disease, but no one died as a result. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 0204 GMT 4 Feb 93)

PARAGUAY

Chagas' Disease Study Outlined—Senator Carlos Zayas Vallejos, vice president of the Paraguayan Congress Health Committee, will travel to Cuba today to present a study prepared by the National University's Institute for Health Sciences Research, financed by the Japanese Government, showing that 400,000 Paraguayans are affected by Chagas' Disease. The study says that the disease affects rural areas in particular, is present with equal intensity in Bolivia and northern Argentina, and is most severe in western Brazil. The senator said he will ask for help from international organizations to eradicate the disease. (Asuncion HOY in Spanish 31 Jan 93 p 3)

PERU

New Cholera Outbreak Feared—The Health Ministry has reported that 1,574 cases of cholera were reported throughout the country during the first 20 days of this year alone, and that 19 individuals died as a consequence of the disease during this period. The report says that the hardest hit regions are Lima-Callao with 1,048 cases, Andres Avelino Caceres with 132 cases, Arequipa with 96 cases, La Libertad with 87 cases, Nor Oriental del Maranon with 44 cases, and Chavin with 41 cases. Arequipa's deputy director of health, Alberto Salinas Portugal, said the outbreak could extend rapidly due to the lack of water in more than 30 poor townships in the region. (Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 22 Jan 93 p A8)

ARGENTINA

Cholera Outbreak Prompts Tighter Control of Borders

PY1301143693 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1047 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] The National Customs Administrations [ANA] has warned the checkpoints along the border with Bolivia, Paraguay, and Brazil of the decision to forbid the entry of small quantities of fresh food to Argentina.

This measure is aimed at strengthening control of food like fish and vegetables, which will be burned as soon as they enter the country "in order to safeguard the population's health."

The ANA noted that "commerce is a common activity that is carried out through border passes in the northern part of the country in keeping with the laws that have been in force for a long time;" consequently, the adoption of the aforementioned measure is deemed necessary.

It stated that meat products and byproducts imported from zones affected by the cholera epidemic will be allowed into the country only with a certificate of origin guaranteeing that the product is not contaminated with the cholera virus.

Meanwhile, Buenos Aires City Hall has resumed control operations, as a result of which 80 stores were closed and 979 notarized certificates were issued because existing regulations have not been complied with.

During the operation, the General Control Under Secretariat verified compliance with regulations on sanitation, authorization, commitments, security, and service to consumers.

BERMUDA

Officials Report Tuberculosis Cases Doubled in 1992

FL3001161193 Bridgetown CANA in English 1445 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Hamilton, Bermuda, Jan 30, CANA—Cases of tuberculosis (TB) in Bermuda doubled in 1992, mirroring an explosion of the disease in the United States, hospital officials here said.

"We are seeing more of it in Bermuda," confirmed King Edward VII Memorial Hospital Executive Director Hume Martin.

"We are aware of the increase in the United States and have instituted new protocols at the hospital," Martin said.

There were seven cases of TB in Bermuda in 1992 compared to three cases in 1991, said the hospital's chief of medicine Dr. Wilbert Warner.

"Although the numbers are small, a more than 100 percent rise is disturbing," said Dr. Warner. "Three of the cases were reactive TB in the elderly and four were in middle-aged people with AIDS."

Dr. Warner described one or two cases of reactive TB per year as normal for Bermuda. The appearance of TB in middle-aged AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) patients in Bermuda followed the experience in North America.

CUBA

Near 100 Percent Reduction in Measles, Rubella, Mumps

FL2101235793 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2320 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] As of last year, the program established in Cuba to eliminate measles, rubella, and mumps had showed a reduction of almost 100 percent in those three diseases.

This has been recognized internationally as a notable success of the Cuban health care system. The last death caused by measles occurred in 1985, while rubella used to produce cyclical epidemics every seven years with several tens of thousands of cases.

The Ministry of Public Health has reported that the epidemic cycle expected in 1989 did not occur because of high coverage among the population under 15 years of age with the triple virus vaccine. This was accomplished through a massive immunization campaign which began in 1986 and cost millions in hard currency.

Health Problem Noted in Guantanamo

*FL0202223893 Havana Radio Reloj Network
in Spanish 2045 GMT 2 Feb 93*

[Text] Acute diarrhea continues to be a health problem in Guantanamo Municipality. There were over 800 cases of acute diarrhea in 1992.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Typhoid Fever Outbreak Claims Four Lives

*FL1301184093 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias
in Spanish 1000 GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Text] The outbreak of typhoid fever which has been affecting Simon Bolivar District for several weeks has spread to 24 de Abril District and has already claimed a life. This was announced by the Coronel Rafael Tomas Fernandez Dominguez Intermediate Committee [comite intermedio] of the Dominican Liberation Party [PLD], which stated that over 25 people have typhoid fever in 24 de Abril District. The report, on behalf of the Simon Bolivar District PLD committee, was made public by Elpidio Baez, who along with several persons stated that his intention is not to create a conflict with the authorities but to make them deal with the problem.

[Begin Baez recording] The PLD reports that the outbreak of typhoid fever in Simon Bolivar District has spread to the adjacent 24 de Abril District, where it has caused the death of Jose Minier, who resided at No. 34 37th street in that district. In addition to Minier's death, over 25 other cases exist in that district. We have a list of the number of people who are ill, including not only their names but also their addresses. Why do we include the addresses of the people affected? Simply to show that the PLD is not interested in arguing with anyone. The PLD is not interested in criticizing anyone. The PLD is not interested in creating a conflict with the health, public works, or city authorities. What we want is for the Dominican authorities to deal with the problem. [end recording]

PLD official Elpidio Baez, who is also a Santo Domingo city councilman, stated that the typhoid fever which has killed three people in Simon Bolivar District, and has now killed another in 24 de Abril District, is spread through the water.

[Begin Baez recording] This is being caused, among other things, by the deficient work of the Aqueduct and

Sewage Corporation of Santo Domingo, which has improperly buried pipes in these districts, to the point where the level of contamination of the water consumed in these districts is causing the typhoid fever outbreak which has already killed three people in Simon Bolivar District. They were Rosario Bueno, Jose Dolores Garcia, and Andres Epifanio.

Therefore, we are calling on the Aqueduct and Sewage Corporation of Santo Domingo to install meters. They have dug holes in the sidewalks and installed some pipes. These pipes are filling those holes with water and when the water recedes, this polluted water that was standing in the holes enters the main lines. [end recording]

GUATEMALA

Cholera Epidemic Affects Over 12,000; 224 Dead

*93WE0143A Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE
in Spanish 12 Nov 92 p 23*

[Text] A total of 224 people have died as a result of the cholera epidemic; 11,981 suspected cases have been reported, and another 883 have been confirmed, according to reports from the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare.

Health Minister Dr. Eusebio del Cid said that since the epidemic was detected in Guatemala in April 1991 medical care centers have treated 6,666 patients with symptoms of the disease.

While cholera continues to be detected at various spots around the nation, an increase in cases of dengue fever and malaria has been reported in the eastern part of the country, especially the departments of Zacapa and Chiquimula, according to accounts from that area.

In the opinion of the health minister, the vectors of these diseases have spread in this region because of the climate and the proximity to Honduras, where the highest infection rate has been reported.

GUYANA

Health Ministry Reports 12 Cholera Cases for 1993

*FL1501180893 Bridgetown CANA in English
1533 GMT 15 Jan 93*

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 15, CANA—The Guyana Government says it has contained the spread of cholera, but is warning against complacency in the advent of rainy weather. Chief medical officer, Dr. Edward Sagala, told CANA Thursday the Health Ministry was reporting 12 suspected cholera cases for the first nine days of this year.

"Since the beginning of the year, the Ministry of Health has recorded only 12 suspected new cholera cases... Five in Region One (Barima/Waini) and seven in Region Two (Pomeroon/Supenaam)," said Dr. Sagala. No new cases have been reported in Region Three (West Demerara/Essequibo Islands) and Four (Demerara/Mahaica) for the past three weeks. Total reported cholera cases up to

January 9 were 548. Deaths remain unchanged at five. Sagala said the "apparent good news" of the containing of the disease should not fuel complacency among residents.

"This apparent good news should not justify the complacency on the part of residents. With the establishment of the rainy season, the public is advised to heighten their precautions against cholera by observing proper personal and food hygiene, proper sewerage disposal, and boiling and sterilisation of water for all domestic use," the chief medical officer said. He said cholera cases had dropped from an estimated 15 per day at the height of the outbreak in the northwest district in Essequibo County near Venezuela on November 5, to around one per day this month.

"This has been achieved mainly through hard work... Mainly through health education to the communities. The people have responded positively," the chief medical officer told CANA.

President of the Tourism Association of Guyana, Patricia Low, told CANA Wednesday some potential visitors were concerned about the outbreak, but added it had not had much of an impact on the country's growing tourism industry.

"It is something that people are concerned about. We do get questions when people are planning their trips and making bookings. I know that all of the individual (tour) operators are handling it the best way they can by making sure they use proper precautions with their staff, with the way they treat their vegetables and handle their food products," Low said. "So far, I think we have been managing this problem fairly well. So far, I don't think it has had a substantial impact. Obviously, it's a concern and it will put people off. We have had cancellations as a result of it, so anything that can be done to make sure that the problem on the whole is being treated in the best way possible would be appreciated," she said. Low added the best way for the industry to tackle the matter was to educate people handling food on how to deal with the problem. "That I know for a fact is being done," said the tourism official.

PARAGUAY

'Red Alert' Implemented Due to Cholera in Nearby Countries

PY1401161593 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 14 Jan 93 p 38

[Excerpt] In a circular it issued on the afternoon of 13 January, the Public Health Ministry, through its Disease Control Division, informed everyone that the institution's dependent and nondependent sanitary units had imposed a "red alert" due to the outbreak of cholera in neighboring countries, and it recommended that strict attention be given to cases of diarrhea throughout the country.

The ministry also has ordered a strict control of food vendors because the preparation of foodstuffs on the streets is a channel for the transmission of cholera due to

the fact that the foodstuffs are not cooked under hygienic conditions. [passage omitted]

Government Prohibits Fruits, Vegetables From Argentina

PY1701213893 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 17 Jan 93 p 9

[Text] President Andres Rodriguez signed a decree yesterday morning prohibiting the entrance of vegetables and natural and frozen fruits from Argentina.

Decree No. 16135, which was drawn up by the Public Health and Social Welfare Ministry, says that due to the outbreak of new cholera cases in the Argentine provinces and realizing that this situation is an epidemiological risk due to the possibility that this disease may enter the national territory, the president of the Republic ordered the aforementioned prohibition and instructed the Agriculture and Livestock Ministry and the General Customs House Directorate to implement the appropriate measures through their respective organizations to fulfill this decree.

The presidential decree had been expected since 14 January, when Health Minister Cynthia Prieto said after meeting with President Rodriguez that it was necessary to prohibit the sale of Argentine fruits and vegetables in Paraguayan territory due to the outbreak of cholera in that country.

Government sources believe the measure is correct and timely, even though Paraguayan officials still are annoyed by a similar decision made by the Argentine Government when there was no reason for it because, as Industry and Commerce Minister Ubaldo Scavone said: "Argentina and not Paraguay is the one that has cholera."

Since the Argentine Government prohibited the entrance of Paraguayan fresh products eight days ago, Paraguayan businessmen have protested strongly because their heavy border trade, especially between Encarnacion and Posadas, was interrupted.

Several officials then even mentioned the possibility that the clumsy Argentine effort to block border trade should be answered with similar measures from the Paraguayan side, and this is what happened with the similar measure adopted by Paraguay through Decree No. 16135 signed by Rodriguez.

Many people believe the prohibition sounds like a reprisal but the decree clearly mentions that it is a preventive measure due to "the epidemiological risk."

President Denies Government Hiding Information on Cholera

PY2601180193 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 26 Jan 93 p 13

[Excerpt] President Andres Rodriguez was firm when on 25 January he stated that his government is not hiding any type of information regarding cholera. It was noticed that Rodriguez was annoyed by the remark made by his Argentine colleague, Carlos Menem, who implicitly accused the Paraguayan Government of hiding the truth

about the current cholera situation in our country. Rodriguez told reporters that "in no way are we hiding information." He then spoke about the two Argentine citizens who had fallen ill with the disease in the area bordering the neighboring nation, but who were looked after in the Paraguayan village of Pedro P. Pena, which is located close to the Pilcomayo River in the Chaco. [passage omitted]

Argentine Claim That Country 'Concealing' Cholera Denied

PY2601172893 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
26 Jan 93 p 13

[Excerpt] Health Minister Cynthia Prieto Conti denied yesterday the existence of cholera in Paraguayan territory, after comments by Argentine President Carlos Menem that Paraguay may be "concealing cases." Health Ministry officials confirmed that two Indians who had come from the Argentine side were infected with cholera and were being treated in Pedro P. Pena (Paraguayan Chaco). In addition, a little girl died from cholera in an Argentine town near the Paraguayan border, and another patient is under intensive care.

The Health Ministry confirmed yesterday that Argentine citizen Juan Felix Perez, a member of the Matako tribe who lives in Mision La Paz (Argentina), which is located

on the banks of the Pilcomayo river, northwest of Asuncion, Paraguay, had been treated by doctors of the Health Ministry stationed at the Pedro P. Pena health center (Paraguayan Chaco). After a lab test it was verified that the man was infected with cholera of the "El Tor biotype, serotype [serovariedad] 01, Ogawa serotype [serotipo]."

The patient was hospitalized in the health center for four days, after which he was released and returned home in good health.

In another case a two-year-old Argentine child named Lucas Solares, who is also of the Matako tribe and lives in Las Vertientes, Argentina, was treated 2 km from the Pedro P. Pena health center in Paraguayan territory. It was also verified that he was infected with cholera. Lucas is the brother of a seven-month-old girl who recently died from cholera in Las Vertientes.

Another Argentine named Uberto Lobo, who also lives in Las Vertientes, was treated by Paraguayan doctors with symptoms similar to cholera, but lab tests showed he was not infected. He returned to Argentina in good health.

In this regard Minister Prieto Conti said: "The information released by the Health Ministry is quite clear. We could not conceal any cases of cholera." [passage omitted]

INDIA

Gastroenteritis Spreads in Howrah, Tripura**Deaths in Howrah**

93WE0201A Calcutta *THE STATESMAN* in English
4 Dec 92 p 10

[Excerpts] Howrah, Dec. 3—Altogether 24 people had died of gastro-enteritis in different parts of the Howrah Municipal Corporation area between November 22 and 30. There was no death reported during the past four days, Mr. Swadesh Chakravorty, Mayor of the Corporation, said according to a Correspondent.

To combat the situation, Mr. Chakravorty held discussions with senior officers of the health services including Deputy Director of Health, Chief Medical Officer, Howrah, and the Health Officials of the Corporation.

The Mayor later said that since the disease was water-borne, the quantity of chlorine mixed with water at the Padmapukur works had been doubled. Health officials are visiting the affected areas to disinfect the wells. People have been asked to use halogen tablets to purify drinking water. The Mayor suspected that the consumption of a kind of "Sea-fish" might have caused the disease. They were, however, investigating the matter. The most affected areas were Pilkhana, Fakirbagan Moukhali and parts of Central Howrah.

[Passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the Satyabala Devi Hospital, the only hospital for infectious diseases in the town, is overflowing with patients. It is learnt that there was no bed available in the male ward. There has been a dearth of medicines and fluids. Gastro-enteritis patients are being admitted to the Howrah General Hospital also.

[Passage omitted]

Acute Cases in Tripura

93WE0201B Calcutta *THE STATESMAN* in English
3 Dec 92 p 10

[Text] Agartala, Dec. 2—At least 49 people, including many children, died of an acute type of gastro-enteritis in the State in November. The disease has since spread to new areas. According to an unofficial estimate, the toll is more than 100.

The Director of the State Health Services Dr K.L. Roy, said 22 patients who had earlier been admitted to the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital here died of the disease last month. The specialists found the symptoms of cholera in a number of cases. Several thousand people are now suffering from the disease throughout the State, Dr. Ray said.

At least 350 people died of enteric disease in the hill regions last year, though official sources confirmed only 127 deaths. Special arrangements are proposed to have been made in the hospitals here and also in the district

towns, while a total of 56 primary health centres were asked to take additional measures for the treatment of the patients.

At a high-level meeting of experts and officials here last night, a programme for preventing villagers from using contaminated water was finalized. The Government facility of providing drinking water is quite inadequate in the State capital while people in rural areas have no alternative but to collect drinking water from the ponds and streams.

IRAN

Country Said To Be on Brink of Malaria Epidemic

93AS0406J Tehran *SALAM* in Persian 20 Dec 92 p 4

[Text] Tehran—IRNA—Because it is a neighbor of Afghanistan and Pakistan and because of the presence in the nation's southeastern provinces of stagnant water, which is a suitable breeding ground for insects carrying malaria (anophelene mosquitoes), Iran is always faced with the danger of the spread of this disease.

In announcing this, Dr. Sa'id Namaki, deputy minister of health, health care and medical education for health care affairs, said that cooperation and coordination is necessary with officials of the nations of Pakistan and Afghanistan in eradicating malaria in the border cities between these two nations, and it is also necessary to spray stagnant waters in the nation's southeastern provinces.

In an interview with press correspondents, he added: The eggs from various types of anophelene mosquitoes grow in stagnant waters and after they mature, if they bite an individual infected with malaria, and then they bite a healthy person, the healthy person will also be infected.

IRNA's correspondent reports that Dr. Namaki said: In this regard, if all the health care and preventive measures are taken inside the country, mosquitoes and also infected emigrants coming from the cities bordering the nation will come into our country and spread this infection.

The deputy minister of health, health care, and medical education for health care affairs added: In view of the sampling and the emergency campaign to control malaria, which has been carried by this ministry's health care personnel, our country is divided into three areas with regard to malaria infection.

These areas include the northern Zagros mountains, which includes 40 million people and has very insignificant contamination, the northern central plateau of Iran, and the northern and northeastern provinces.

Another area is the west and southwestern part of the country, with six infections per 1,000 and a population of 15 million, and this number of infections has also come completely under control.

The third area of malaria contamination in the country is the southeastern provinces, including Sistan va Baluchestan, Hormozgan, and part of the province of Kerman, with a population of 2.7 million. The rate of malaria infection there in the year 1370 [21 Mar 1991-20 Mar 1992] was 16.48 persons per 1,000, and this rate of infection has decreased 50 percent through the efforts of health-care officials in the area.

Dr. Namaki added: Based on information obtained, in the Pakistani cities neighboring the province of Sistan va Baluchestan the rate of this infection is 200 to 400 per 1,000. With the planning that has been done, we intend to bring this problem under control jointly with Pakistan.

He said: Based on an emergency program, in addition to spraying operations and the diagnosis and training of health-care personnel, with the cooperation of the College of Health Care and the Institute of Health Care Research, malaria research stations are to be established in the cities of Iranshahr, Kazerun and Bandar 'Abbas.

In the same regard, on Friday a three-month course will be opened in Bandar 'Abbas by Dr. Malekzadeh, minister of health, covering the diagnosis and control of malaria and with the participation of health-care experts in the provinces of Sistan va Baluchestan, Hormozgan and Kerman.

By prior agreement, the Afghani minister of health, Iranian officials, and three Afghan experts will also participate in this course.

The deputy minister of health for health-care affairs added: Every year about 300 million people in the world, especially in the African nations, are infected with malaria, of which 1 million die. Last year in our country several cases were reported, two of whom died in the provinces of Sistan va Baluchestan and Esfahan because of the failure to report in time.

He said: In view of the increase of this disease in the world, there is felt in the country the necessity to do serious and comprehensive planning to diagnose, control and fight this disease, and it needs the cooperation and assistance of Majles deputies and the officials of the Plan and Budget Organization.

Polluted Well Water Threatens Health in Sari

93WE0189C Tehran ABRAR in Persian 14 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] Sari. IRNA. Pollution of the water of shallow wells in the villages north of Sari seriously threatens the health of about 20,000 residents of these villages.

Engineer Mehdi Yunesian, a Medical Sciences University professor in Mazandaran, said: Research on the water of the shallow wells of 18 villages north of Sari shows that the pollution of the wells is so high that it could be said that the residents of these villages are taking sewage instead of water from these wells.

He said: Unfortunately, some villagers use wells disregarding the proper distance between the water wells and waste water wells. Considering that the surface water is

polluted with human waste and chemical wash down from agricultural lands, with the infiltration into the water wells, the likelihood of contagious diseases among the residents of these areas is high.

He said: Also, in the coastal area where public beaches have been established, disease can be transmitted through the settlement and penetration of all sorts of sewage into the water.

SUDAN

Kala Azar Epidemic Threatening Dinka

AB2201185693 Paris AFP in English 1645 GMT
22 Jan 93

[Text] Nairobi, Jan 22 (AFP) - Tens of thousands of Dinka tribes people in southern Sudan have died in an epidemic of kala azar over the past three years, UNICEF officials reported on Friday.

The infectious disease is spread by sandflies and attacks the spleen and liver. UNICEF worker Patta Scott, back from a tour of inspection in the region between the Bahr al-Ghazal river and the south of Kurdufan province, said treatment with injections for a month would cost 800 dollars per patient—an astronomical sum for the Dinka, who are struggling to get enough to eat.

She calculated that for every three people still alive, seven others had died since 1989 of kala azar (Hindi for black disease).

In Geneva, a spokesman for UNICEF, the U.N. children's fund, said about 60,000 people out of 85,000 in the Parayang district had died in the epidemic. Among the survivors, nine people out of 10 were suffering from tropical ulcers, he said.

The region has been cut off by civil war which broke out in the south in 1983. Last week's mission was the first to get in for several years.

Statistics on Malaria Cases

93WE0155A Khartoum AL-INQAZ AL-WATANI
in Arabic 19 Nov 92 p 5

[Text] The newspaper KURDUFAN carried out a comprehensive survey of al-Abyad Hospital and its handling of the spread of malaria during the past four months. More than 5,000 malaria cases have been reported throughout the country. Due to the lack of space, we are publishing only a summary of that survey.

Dr. Sayyid Hasan 'Awad, chief administrator of al-Abyad hospital, said malaria was severe this year; it peaked from July to October, then began to drop in November. Malaria cases reached their highest number with an average of 126 to 130 cases a day. The number of cases then dropped to only 10 after the month of October. The number of deaths were normal (less than 1 percent). Dr. 'Awad said that experts in al-Abyad Hospital followed the same treatment methods as those

followed by WHO. They minimized the use of medicines, gradually moving from chloroquine to quinine and then to quinine combined with another treatment.

He said the hospital has 600 beds, 100 of which are reserved for internal diseases. He said that this has compelled the hospital to stop doing ear, nose, throat, and eye surgeries (especially minor operations). "We exploited the hospital's capacity by receiving malaria patients during the past months."

Dr. 'Awad said the hospital is suffering from an acute shortage of medical cadres, especially general practitioners—of which there is a 50 percent shortage. There are 20 doctors at the hospital instead of 60, which is the minimum. The situation with regard to specialists is good. There are 20 specialists at al-Abyad Hospital. They are only lacking a chiropractor. Dr. 'Awad said efforts are being made to develop al-Abyad Hospital as part of a comprehensive efforts to develop the town of al-Abyad.

Dr. Taha 'Abd-al-Hafiz, director of health affairs in Kurdufan and an expert in preventive medicine and social medicine, said he believes that al-Abyad is a clean town, but that environmental health is not only doctors' responsibility. It is also the shared responsibility of the people. "The governor sent out an advisory on caring for the environment. A limited quantity of pesticides has been received. We used it to spray the beltway around the town. But no spraying has been done in the town

because of the small quantity of pesticides. We asked for more from Khartoum, but we have received no response yet." He said that malaria has receded and the situation in al-Abyad and in Kurdufan Province will return to normal by the end of this month. He said that a team from Khartoum is now carrying out research on the type of malaria in Kurdufan. A conference on malaria will be held in December in Khartoum in order to draw up a medicinal policy for malaria, work out a correct method of diagnosis, and create substitutes and a standard treatment, because there is confusion in this field. The conference will seek to find an answer to the question: Is the malaria parasite beginning to become immune to chloroquine.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Hafiz said that Kurdufan almost suffered an acute medicine crisis had it not been for the official and public efforts that resulted in securing 5 million pounds. The governor donated 1 million pounds, and the Shaykan Commission, the Alms Fund, Social Security, and the Shari'ah Fund each donated a similar amount.

It is worth noting that there are 1,297 health institutes in Kurdufan, including 26 hospitals, 24 health centers, 176 clinics, 123 medical attention stations, and 938 primary medical units. Meanwhile the district is suffering considerably from shortages of various health cadres in the provinces.

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